C. Wood

Final Reflection “Exam”

This is your final assignment - you may complete it on this page then copy and paste this response to your individual wiki page, OR you may answer this in a separate file, upload the file to the wiki, and link the file in your individual page.

**Scenario:**

You find yourself at a job interview for your first teaching position in a public school (of your appropriate grade level). As you are talking to the principal, you ask how much technology is available in the school (i.e. labs, computers in classrooms, interactive whiteboards and the like) and how much emphasis is placed on teachers’ using technology in their teaching. The principal says, “Oh, yes, the teachers have whiteboards and computers in their rooms, but some teachers don’t like them and don’t use them very much. Why do you ask?” So you’re put on the spot, in a sense, to explain why you feel it is important to have up-to-date technology in the school and for teachers to use technology in teaching and in student learning.

**SO**, how are you going to reply to the principal’s query? What will you say about your beliefs in the importance of teaching with technology? Think about some of the knowledge you’ve acquired in this class this semester and some of the issues we’ve discussed, then compose here a reply to the principal’s question. Your answer should be thorough and in good paragraph form (remember this is a job interview) - at least a half-page to full-page length (2 or three well-developed paragraphs). Then, stop and compare your answer here to what you wrote at the beginning of the semester in terms of your beliefs in the importance of technology in education. Have those beliefs changed at all as a result of taking this class? Answer this question at the end of your response - you might want to bold the text or highlight it to set it apart from the rest of the text.

My Response: To be honest with you, I think that it’s a shame that technology isn’t more prevalent in your school. In today’s society and in many jobs and careers, technology is a vital resource that a potential employer could see as a weakness if someone doesn’t know how to use technology appropriately. These students will be using technology more and more as time passes in any field they pursue whether it be mathematics or psychology. We’re doing a disservice to these students by not making this available to them.

Another reason I think technology is so important for students to use and be comfortable with is the fact that it’s a valuable learning tool inside the classroom. As a physics teacher, I see many potential resources that my students would benefit from using as a study guide or to hone in on abstract concepts that can’t easily be discussed with a white board and some markers. Using technology in the classroom can also help a wide range of students succeed. There are many ways that students with disabilities can use technology to do their assignments and keep up with the general curriculum. It’s important that we make this available to them because again, we’d be doing them a disservice to say that the only way we’d accept their work was if it was turned in like we think “normal” students should. Technology also helps students with different learning styles master the information we’re trying to teach them. Things like audio books and audio guided answers are valuable tools for someone who doesn’t necessarily learn the best when there’s just a teacher talking in front of a room. Videos, games, applets, and online activities are also helpful in this area. Technology in the classroom can also help bring out students strengths. I could assign a project to my students so that they can practice the concepts I’m teaching them in a different manner than just mathematically “plugging and chugging” problems for days on end. This allows me, as a teacher, to see that even though maybe their math skills aren’t on the level they ought to be, I still know they’re grasping the concepts and understanding the material. This would probably make the class more productive and engage students in the material while also helping them to retain information.

**To be honest, when I was a student, I took a lot of the available technology in my school for granted. Trips to the computer lab were daunting and I didn’t really see how this would really help. After taking ISTC 301, I have seen how important and vital technology has become in classrooms. I can also see that technology is only going to become more important as time goes on because of how our society utilizes technology. I also always saw technology as something that spiced up a classroom, that took away from the monotonous drone of lecture based classes. After taking this course I’ve seen how it can help not only students with disabilities (in the UDL style) but can also benefit students who need something more than a teacher lecturing in front of a classroom. I hope I am privileged enough to work in a school that has technological resources available for me and my students so that we can together use some of the skills and resources I’ve gained from taking this class!**